

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A spacer used for separating and supporting products which are stored and/or transported in a stacked configuration or array, said spacer comprising:
a plurality of sheets of material which have been laminated on top of one another and secured to one another with an adhering means, said plurality of sheets defining a plurality of alternating curved peak portions and valley portions such that said plurality of sheets are formed in a wave-like configuration, said plurality of sheets further defining first and second outer surfaces and first and second edges which are provided between said first and second outer surfaces, the products being supported by one of said first and second edges of said plurality of sheets configured to directly support the products, wherein said material is paperboard.
2. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said adhering means is an adhesive.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim 3 1, wherein said paperboard has grain fibers provided therein, said grain fibers of said paperboard generally running perpendicularly to said first and second edges, such that said grain fibers generally extend from said first edge to said second edge.

5. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said curved peak portions are provided by first curved portions and wherein said curved valley portions are provided by second curved portions, said first curved portions being connected to said second curved portions.

6. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 5, wherein said first curved portions are connected to said second curved portions by leg portions.

7. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 6, wherein said leg portions are generally elongated.

8. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein eight sheets of material have been laminated on top of one another and secured to one another with an adhering means.

9. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said spacer has a length of approximately forty-eight inches, a width of approximately two and a half inches, a height of approximately four inches, and a thickness of approximately one-quarter of an inch.

10. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said spacer is configured to have a compressive strength of at least support between approximately fifteen thousand and twenty thousand pounds.

11. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said spacer is configured to be nestable with another spacer.

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12. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said spacer is configured to weigh ~~between~~ approximately one and to two pounds.

13. (Currently amended) A spacer used for separating and supporting products which are stored and/or transported in a stacked configuration or array, said spacer comprising:

a first spacer segment having a plurality of sheets of paperboard which have been laminated on top of one another and secured to one another with a first adhering means, said first spacer segment which defines defining a plurality of alternating curved peak portions and curved valley portions such that said first spacer segment is formed in a wave-like configuration, said first spacer segment further defining first and second outer surfaces and first and second edges which are provided between said first and second outer surfaces; and

a second spacer segment having a plurality of sheets of paperboard which have been laminated on top of one another and secured to one another with a second adhering means, said second spacer segment which defines defining a plurality of alternating curved peak portions and curved valley portions such that said second spacer segment is formed in a wave-like configuration, said second spacer segment further defining first and second outer surfaces and first and second edges which are provided between said first and second outer surfaces;

wherein said second spacer segment is positioned next to said first spacer segment such that said first edges of said first and second spacer segments are generally planar and such that said second edges of said first and second spacer segments are generally planar, said curved peak portions of said first and second spacer segments being secured to one another by an a third adhering means, the products being supported by one of said first and second edges of said first and second spacer segments configured to directly support the products.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein said paperboard has grain fibers provided therein, said grain fibers of said paperboard generally running perpendicularly to said first and second edges of said first and second spacer segments, such that said grain fibers generally extend from said first edges of said first and second spacer segments to said second edges of said first and second spacer segments.

17. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein eight sheets of material have been laminated on top of one another and secure to one another.

18. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim ~~14~~ 13, wherein said spacer has a length of approximately forty-eight inches, a width of approximately two and a half inches, a height of approximately four inches, and a thickness of approximately one-quarter of an inch.

19. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 13, wherein said adhering means is an adhesive.

20. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 13, wherein said curved peak portions are provided by first curved portions and wherein said curved valley portions are provided by second curved portions, said first curved portions being connected to said second curved portions.

21. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 20, wherein said first curved portions are connected to said second curved portions by leg portions.

22. (Original) A spacer as defined in claim 21, wherein said leg portions are generally elongated.

23. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim 13, wherein said spacer is configured to support between have a compressive strength of at least approximately fifteen thousand and twenty thousand pounds.

24. (Currently amended) A spacer as defined in claim 13, wherein said spacer is configured to weigh between approximately one and to two pounds.

25-59. (Cancelled).

60. (New) A spacer as defined in claim 1, wherein said spacer has a thickness of approximately one-quarter of an inch, and wherein said spacer is configured to have a compressive strength of at least approximately fifteen thousand pounds.